

STATEMENT CONGRATULATING
FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNI-
VERSITY AND FLORIDA ATLAN-
TIC UNIVERSITY ON BEING
RANKED AMONG THE TOP 100
COLLEGES AWARDING DEGREES
TO HISPANICS

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 2008

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate two exemplary South Florida institutions of higher learning: Florida International University (FIU) and Florida Atlantic University (FAU). These universities were recently ranked by Hispanic Outlook Magazine as 1st and 28th, respectively, among the top 100 colleges awarding degrees to Hispanics in the United States.

Both institutions have built a rich tradition of ensuring an exceptional educational experience to quality students of all backgrounds. FAU and FIU are dedicated to imparting knowledge through excellent teaching, groundbreaking research, and a commitment to public service.

In today's global society, it is imperative that we recognize the importance of scholastic achievement without forgetting how vital it is that the learning experience extend beyond the classroom. FIU and FAU are committed to ensuring that their students are well-rounded, socially conscious, and constantly exposed to various cultural and socioeconomic backgrounds. The graduates of these universities serve as trailblazers in Florida's continuous endeavor to provide educational opportunities that will improve the social and economic disparities that Florida's minority communities face.

As one example, FIU will open South Florida's only public medical school in August 2009. The new school will serve as the cornerstone of a broader, university-wide Health Science Center. Through this effort, the University aims to expand healthcare access to traditionally underserved populations and to train physicians who are sensitive to South Florida's unique cultural diversity.

FAU is also impacting the South Florida community by encouraging economic development in urban core areas through its Sustainable Community Planning curriculum. This curriculum prepares students who aspire to become practicing planners, public administrators, civic leaders, and neighborhood activists. Programs are geared towards community revitalization which will ultimately affect how neighboring cities cope with increasing challenges associated with growth and change.

I commend FAU and FIU for serving as role models to colleges and universities throughout our Nation. They are exemplary examples of two schools which continue to uphold a commitment to cultural diversity, public service, and academic excellence. Their effectiveness is truly demonstrated through every student who earns a degree, every researcher who makes a discovery, and every community that benefits from the efforts and accomplishments of these two noteworthy institutions. I am proud to congratulate FAU and FIU for this noteworthy achievement and the indelible impact they have had on both our local and national landscapes.

TRIBUTE TO SHERIFF STAN W.
BURCHARDT

HON. TIMOTHY WALBERG

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 2008

Mr. WALBERG. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Sheriff Stan W. Burchardt of the Hillsdale County Sheriff's Office for interrupting a breaking and entering incident in Pittsford, Michigan and arresting the suspect. It is with great pride that I congratulate Sheriff Burchardt on behalf of all of those who have benefited from his dedicated service to Hillsdale County and his proven ability to protect its citizens.

On May 23, 2008 at approximately 1:15 A.M., Sheriff Stan Burchardt was awoken by a noise outside his residence in Pittsford. Upon hearing the noise, the Sheriff exited his home and positioned himself outside in the dark for approximately five minutes. Sheriff Burchardt soon observed a subject running from his next door neighbor's house, heading toward Pittsford Tire & Gas Company. The suspect, wearing a ski mask and camouflage clothing, ran to the main entrance of the building and broke in through the front door.

Sheriff Burchardt immediately ran from his residence to the front door of the business. He witnessed the subject walk behind the counter and place items into a backpack. After identifying himself, Sheriff Burchardt proceeded to arrest the suspect. He held the suspect at bay and called a patrol unit using a telephone at the business. Deputies from Hillsdale County Sheriff's Office arrived on the scene and transported the suspect to the Hillsdale County jail where he was booked for breaking and entering.

Sheriff Stan Burchardt has honorably served as Hillsdale County Sheriff for over 12 years and has a total of 29 years of law enforcement experience. While serving in this position, Sheriff Burchardt has significantly advanced the force by increasing training for staff members, establishing minimum physical agility standards for staff to meet, and graduating 23 student cadets representing many schools within Hillsdale County. Continually engaged in the community, the Sheriff has sponsored many successful outreach programs to train in areas such as school safety, senior citizen protection, and methamphetamine awareness. Sheriff Burchardt is highly respected throughout the community for his proven law enforcement leadership and reputation for honor and integrity.

Madam, Speaker, today I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Sheriff Stan W. Burchardt of the Hillsdale County Sheriff's Office for his brave actions and esteemed leadership. The Sheriff's arrest of the suspect will undoubtedly make criminals think twice, lower breaking and entering incidents in the area and ease the minds of many throughout the community. May others know of my high regard for his outstanding performance and honorable service to Hillsdale County, as well as my best wishes for Sheriff Stan Burchardt in the future.

IN HONOR OF MR. KING GEORGE
PITTMAN, U.S. ARMY, RETIRED

HON. JOHN P. MURTHA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 2008

Mr. MURTHA. Madam Speaker, Mr. SKELTON and I rise to honor the life of King George Pittman, who, at the age of 87, passed away on Tuesday, June 10, 2008. A man who was extremely proud of his heritage and the military, King George Pittman lived a full and eventful life.

A native of Florida, Mr. Pittman was the fourth youngest of twelve children born in Tallahassee to Williams Pittman and Carrie Tansy Pittman. There he attended Lincoln High School and was a member of Philadelphia Primitive Baptist Church. At the age of 21, he joined the U.S. Army.

Mr. Pittman served in the U.S. Army from May 22, 1941 to December 14, 1956. He fought in World War II and the Korean War. He earned eight different awards for his service. He received the Good Conduct Medal Bronze Clasp with Three Loops for his loyalty, knowledge, vigilance and merit. He received the Purple Heart for his bravery. In addition to these, he received the World War II Victory Medal, the Korean Service Medal with one Bronze Service Star, the United Nations Service Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citation badge and the Honorable Service Lapel Button World War II. Although he received all of these awards, his family never knew of his many accomplishments. He served his country with distinction, and was modest to say the least.

A brother, uncle, great uncle, friend and neighbor, Mr. Pittman was a proud man who leaves behind his sister, and our former colleague, retired U.S. Representative Carrie P. Meek, a constant source of his pride.

He also leaves a nephew, and our current colleague, Congressman KENDRICK B. MEEK of Florida, who proudly serves on the House Armed Services Committee, an assignment that surely put a smile on King's face. King found pride in all of his family, including nephews Samuel Pittman and Charles Bellamy, nieces, Lucia Raiford, Sheila Kinui, Betty Jean Pittman and Katrina Presley.

For his patriotic efforts in the Korean War in particular, King has rated burial at Arlington National Cemetery, a high honor and memorial for a war hero. The Korean War was too significant to neglect, too momentous to ignore, too pivotal to be disregarded, and far too costly to be forgotten. And, so we take this moment to honor King, one of its many heroes.

And, he is honored even more by the great family he leaves behind with us. King George Pittman lived a long and fulfilling time. He can now rest in the arms of the God he cherished and served. Mr. Pittman will truly be missed.

SAFE KIDS USA

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 2008

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize an important milestone in child